

Library
HETTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1963



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HETTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



HETTON HOUSE,

HETTON-LE-HOLE,

CO. DURHAM.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I hereby present the Annual Report on the Health and Welfare of the Urban District. I was honoured by my being appointed as Medical Officer of the Urban District on 1st August, 1963 on the retirement of Dr. Smith. I have strived to maintain the progress initiated by Dr. Smith in the Department and in the District.

It is gratifying to note that the Still Birth Rate is less than last year. There were no serious outbreaks of Infectious Diseases. Efforts were made to improve the protection of the community by immunisation and vaccinations.

I wish to express my thanks to the General Practitioners in the area and the Hospital Consultants for their continued co-operation.

I am grateful to the Chairman, Councillors, the Chief Officers and members of my staff for their help and guidance which enabled me to settle down easily in my new post.

Yours sincerely,

P.A.Y.NARAYANAN, M.B., B.S., D.T.M. & H.,
D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Members of Council and Health Committee 1963

Chairman of the Council

- Councillor Mrs.C.Buckingham J.

Chairman of the Health Committee

- Councillor G.W.Davidson

Hetton Ward

Councillor Mrs. H.Ellison, J.P.	5 Dunelm Road, Hetton-le-Hole.
Councillor J.Ellison,	5 Dunelm Road, Hetton-le-Hole.
Councillor E.Kent,	11 Bedford Street, Hetton-le-Hole.
Councillor C.Long,	29 Springwell Terrace, Hetton-le-Hole.
Councillor G.Metcalf,	31 Deepdale Street, Hetton-le-Hole.
Councillor W.Lowery,	2 Co-operative Terrace, Hetton-le-Hole.

Hetton Downs Ward

Councillor Mrs.C.Buckingham, J.P.	23 Fairy Street, Hetton-le-Hole.
Councillor G.W.Davidson,	19 Caroline Street, Hetton-le-Hole.
Councillor J.Belshaw,	6 Borrowdale Street, Hetton-le-Hole.
Councillor L.Kelly, J.P.,	'Hillcroft', North Road, Hetton-le-Hole.
Councillor A.Logan, B.E.M.	4 Surrey Street, Hetton-le-Hole.
Councillor E.Weirs,	1 Station Road North, Hetton-le-Hole.

Easington Lane Ward

Councillor W.H.Bainbridge,	79 Elemore Lane, Easington Lane,
Councillor F.Noble,	5 Rydal Avenue, Easington Lane,
Councillor Mrs.E.Smith,	26 Whitehill Road, Easington Lane,
Councillor J.Telford,	2 Brickgarth, Easington Lane.
Councillor A.Grey, J.P.,	'Elmwood', 83a Elemore Lane, Easington Lane.
Councillor R.S.Dixon,	5 Sheriff's Moor Avenue, Easington Lane.

Rainton & Moorsley Ward

Councillor J.J.Clough,	11 Mill Terrace, East Rainton.
Councillor J.Prest,	17 Moorsley Road, Low Moorsley.
Councillor R.Smith,	4 Handley Crescent, East Rainton.

Area	- 4,551 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid 1963	- 17,330
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1963) according to Rate Books	- 5648
Rateable Value	- £221,607.
Product of a penny rate	- £459.0s.0d

Public Health Officers of the Authority

The Staff consists of :-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - Dr. P.A.Y.Narayanan, Who~~e~~^{se} time conjoint appointment (see below) Degrees of M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - Mr.H.J.S.Murray. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspector's Joint Examination Board, and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops Inspection under the Shops Act.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR - Mr.J.R.Hall. Holds Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspector's Joint Examination Board, and Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

ENGINEER & SURVEYOR - Mr.P.W.Richardson. Holds Testamur of the Institute of Municipal Engineers.

The present Medical Officer is also the Medical Officer of Health for Houghton-le-Spring and Washington Urban District, Sunderland Rural District and Assistant County Medical Officer for Area No.5.

Health Services Administered by County Council
and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

The following Health Services are Administered by the County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance	Domestic Helps
Home Nursing	Health Visitors
Prophylactic measures against smallpox	Child Welfare and Maternity
Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria and Tuberculosis	School Medical
	Welfare of the Blind and Handicapped

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part 11 of the National Insurance Act 1948.

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTORS are also appointed by and work under the directions of the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS are fully qualified men appointed by and working under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture being responsible for carrying out routine examinations of milk producing animals throughout the county.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births and Birth Rates

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar-General for outward and inward transfers) during 1963 was 244 as compared with 250 for 1962.

Sex and legitimacy classification is as follows :-

	Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate per
Live) Legitimate	244	135	109	) 1000 of the estimated population - 14.88
Births) Otherwise	14	10	4	

The Birth Rate per 1000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 16.5 for 1963.

In order to compare the birth rate based on the Registrar-General's figures for England and Wales a comparability factor of 1.02 is used giving a birth rate for the District of 15.18 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Still Births - During 1963 there were 4 still births in the district.

	Total	Males	Females	) giving a Rate of 15.2 per 1000 total (live and still) births
Still) Legitimate	4	4	-	
Births) Otherwise	-	-	-	

The still birth rate per 1,000 population is 0.23.

Deaths and Death Rates After correction for outward and inward transfers, 204 residents of the District died, (101 males and 103 females).

The death rate, therefore, corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths, from all causes and at all ages was 11.77 compared with 11.3 for England and Wales.

In order to compare the death rate based on the Registrar-General's figures for England and Wales a comparability factor of 1.23 is used giving a death rate for the District of 14.48 compares with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Locally compiled and correct figures are as follows :-

During 1963 there were 108 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, (57 males and 51 females). Of these 1 male did not normally reside in the area therefore 51 males and 51 females having their permanent residence within the district died therein. 50 males and 52 females whose permanent residence was within the area died outside it. The total number of deaths, therefore corrected for outwards and inwards transfers is 204 (103 females and 104 males).

Total Deaths under Five Years (Corrected Locally)

During 1962, 11 children died under the age of five years.

The following table summarises the above statistics.

Births				Deaths				Total Increase
Year	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000	Males	Females	Total	
1954	167	143	316	21.67	118	110	228	88
1955	168	150	318	17.25	109	79	188	130
1956	134	158	292	15.8	106	110	216	76
1957	173	154	327	17.7	89	85	174	153
1958	168	157	325	17.7	112	84	195	130
1959	160	155	323	17.01	84	79	163	160
1960	176	150	326	17.7	142	105	247	79
1961	134	138	272	15.52	86	69	155	117
1962	121	118	239	14.31	102	103	205	34
1963	135	109	244	14.88	101	103	204	40

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

There were no deaths among women or babies from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

Death Rate of Infants under One Year

7 children died during 1963 before attaining the age of one year, (3 legitimate males and 4 legitimate females), compared with 10 in 1962.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1954 - 1963.

Year	All Infants per 1000 live Births	Legitimate Infants	Otherwise
		per 1000 legitimate Live Births	Infants per 1000 Otherwise live Births
1954	44.3	45.16	-
1955	22.01	22.22	-
1956	37.67	38.5	-
1957	24.4	21.9	125.0
1958	15.3	16.07	-
1959	19.04	19.5	-
1960	27.6	28.3	-
1961	22.06	22.6	-
1962	40.00	41.8	-
1963	27.1	28.7	-

Of the 7 infants who died under one year of age the cause of death was in 3 cases due to prematurity, giving a percentage of 43 due to this cause. No deaths under one year were due to pneumonia.

Since the total deaths from all causes and at all ages in the district was 204, 3.4 per cent. of the total deaths were of children under the age of one year. Of these under one year of age 43 per cent. were under one week.

The following table shows the age distribution of the deaths in various wards :-

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	2 - 5 years	5 - 15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65-75 years	75 yrs & over	TOTAL
Easington Lane	1	1	1	1	1	3	21	16	23	65
Hetton	1	1	1	1	1	3	11	14	16	45
Hetton Downs	1	1	2	1	1	1	22	11	34	72
Rainton & Moorsley	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4	9	22
	3	2	2	2	1	8	60	45	82	204

There were no deaths from "infantile" diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

Table showing deaths from Infectious Diseases

Year	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs.	TOTAL
1954	229	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1955	188	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1956	216	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1957	174	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1958	195	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1960	163	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1961	247	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1962	155	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1963	205	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Causes of Death in Hetton Urban District during 1963.

<u>Causes of Death</u>						<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
All Causes						101	103
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory...	...	...	...	...	2	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles...	...	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitis diseases..	...	...	...	...	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...	...	...	3	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, Lung bronchus...	...	...	...	...	11	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, Breast ...	...	...	...	...	-	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...	...	...	...	-	1
14.	Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms...	...	...	...	...	6	11
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia...	...	...	...	...	1	-
16.	Diabetes...	...	...	...	...	-	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system..	...	...	...	...	12	27
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	...	23	21
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	...	...	...	4	5
20.	Other heart disease...	...	...	...	...	3	2
21.	Other circulatory disease ..	...	...	...	...	1	2
22.	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	6	8
24.	Bronchitis...	...	...	...	...	14	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	...	...	...	...	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum..	...	...	...	...	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis...	...	...	...	...	1	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate...	...	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations...	...	...	...	...	1	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	...	...	...	...	8	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents...	...	...	...	...	-	1
34.	All other accidents ...	...	...	...	...	4	1
35.	Homicide and operations of war...	...	...	...	...	-	-
36.	Suicides...	...	...	...	...	-	-

Deaths from Tuberculosis

There were no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis or non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1963.

COMPARATIVE TABLE

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 Population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	No. of deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate per 1000 Population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis
1954	3	.16	1	.05
1955	3	.16	0	.00
1956	1	.05	0	.00
1957	1	.05	0	.00
1958	3	.16	0	.00
1959	2	.108	0	.00
1960	1	.054	2	.108
1961	0	.00	0	.00
1962	0	.00	0	.00
1963	0	.00	0	.00

Heart Diseases

Heart Diseases being inclusive of Coronary Disease, Angina, Hypertension with Heart Disease and other Heart Diseases, account from 58 deaths (30 males and 28 females). This is equivalent to 28.4 per cent of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 3.3 per 1,000 population.

Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System

In addition to the above deaths a further 39 (12 males and 27 females) were due to Vascular Lesion of the Nervous System, the majority being due to Cerebral Haemorrhage.

The number of deaths in these two groups has increased the two groups accounting for the deaths of 97 persons (57 males and 40 females) as against a total of 95 persons in 1962.

	Males	Females	Total
Coronary Disease, Angina	23	21	44
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	5	9
Other Heart Diseases	3	2	5
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	27	12	39
	<u>57</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>97</u>

This is equivalent (taking the groups together) of 47.6 per cent of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 5.6 1000 population.

Cancer 38 deaths - (20 males and 18 females), were due to cancer. This is equivalent to 18.6 per cent. of the total deaths, or a mortality rate of 2.2 per 1000 population.

The following table shows the number of deaths due to VLNS and CDA and Cancer in the District, and the death rates from these diseases in the years 1954 - 1963.

Year	Number of Deaths			Death Rate per 1000 population		
	All causes	Cancer	VLNS & CDA	All Causes	Cancer	VLNS & CDA
1954	228	39	116	12.3	2.11	6.2
1955	188	40	86	10.2	2.16	4.6
1956	216	30	111	11.17	1.62	6.02
1957	174	33	71	9.4	1.79	3.85
1958	195	44	102	10.5	2.38	5.4
1959	163	36	78	8.8	1.94	4.2
1960	247	35	128	13.3	1.8	6.8
1961	155	28	69	8.84	1.5	3.9
1962	205	40	95	11.73	2.3	5.4
1963	204	38	97	11.77	2.2	5.6

NOTE -VLNS: Vascular Lesions of Nervous System and
CDA: Coronary Disease, Angina, Hypertension with
Heart Disease and Other Heart Disease.

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1963 from cancer as compiled from local returns.

<u>SITE</u>	<u>Males - Ages</u>	<u>Females - Ages</u>
Stomach	75,76	57,64,65,68,78,80,90
Uterus		70,84
Breast		62,81
Gall Bladder		
Tongue		
Lungs, Bronchus	68,49,54,54,58,58,60,62,64,65,68,83	
Liver		56,63
Prostate	72,78	
Bladder	79	
Bowel		
Rectum	52,61,72	87
Mouth		55,69,72,73

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

During the year 1963, some 193 cases of infectious diseases including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified as occurring in the district. There were 144 cases of measles, as compared with 2 measles in 1962.

School Notification of Diseases No cases of any notifiable diseases were notified from the Schools.

Comparison of number of cases of infectious diseases notified during decade 1954-1963.

Diseases	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Scarlet Fever	7	2	5	1	17	8	3	9	10	13
Diphtheria	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	28	11	25	27	10	20	16	12	6	3
Erysipelas	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Pulmonary)Male	6	6	2	4	5	7	4	3	6	6
Tuberculosis)Female	7	5	7	6	4	2	4	1	4	4
Non-Pulmonary)Male	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis)Female	-	1	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Small Pox	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	5	509	4	241	7	189	4	473	2	144
Whooping Cough	27	106	33	64	3	29	89	10	-	22
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	2	1	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Polio-Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	87	644	81	356	49	258	122	510	28	192

Tuberculosis

There has been no action taken during 1963, under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), of Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The following table compiled from local statistics shows the various age period for males and females, at which new cases were notified, and when death occurred.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-

The following table shows the new notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis according to sex for the year 1954-1963.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Total all Forms
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1954	7	7	14	-	-	-	14
1955	6	5	11	1	1	2	13
1956	2	7	9	-	3	3	12
1957	4	6	10	-	3	3	13
1958	5	4	9	1	2	3	12
1959	7	2	9	-	-	-	9
1960	5	4	9	-	-	-	9
1961	3	1	4	-	-	-	4
1962	6	4	10	-	-	-	10
1963	6	4	10	-	-	-	10

Occupation

Of those suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 was a typist, 1 Schoolgirl, 1 Lorry Driver, 3 Miner's, 2 Housewives, 2 Occupation unknown.

The following are particulars of the number and type of houses provided by the Council in pre-war and post war periods :-

The number of types of Pre-war are as follows :-

<u>Estate</u>	<u>A 1</u>	<u>A 2</u>	<u>A 3</u>	<u>A 4</u>	<u>B 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Broomhill	100	30	-	-	-	130
Eppleton	-	10	22	2	-	34
Hetton	-	135	180	-	-	315
Peat Carr	-	167	57	14	-	238
Easington Lane (Old Site)	-	29	154	-	36	219
Prospect	20	63	25	9	-	117
East Rainton	4	152	57	5	-	218
Moorsley	12	-	-	-	-	12
Springwell Terrace	-	24	12	-	-	36
Mill Terrace	-	8	4	-	-	12
	136	618	511	30	36	1331

Houses completed between the end of the War and the 31st December, 1963

<u>Estate</u>	<u>A 1</u>	<u>A 2</u>	<u>A 3</u>	<u>A 4</u>	<u>Sp. 6 Br.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Caroline Street	-	10	-	-	-	10
Pemberton & Richard St.	16	-	-	-	-	16
Peat Carr	-	54	70	2	-	126
The Lawns, Eas. Lane	24	-	-	-	-	24
Prospect	2	59	96	8	-	165
Moorsley	18	32	56	4	-	110
Moorsley (55 houses)	12	34	9	-	-	55
Low Downs	16	38	36	4	-	94
Gargles Farm Est.	58	124	80	6	1	269
Brickgarth	24	58	31	-	-	113
Murton Lane	4	6	-	-	-	10
Mill Terrace	-	2	-	-	-	2
East Rainton	20	26	4	-	-	50
Shaws Row	4	31	14	-	-	49
Derwent Street	10	44	16	-	-	70
Hetton House Grounds	-	-	1	-	-	1
Moorsley	-	11	3	-	-	14
Prospect	2	-	-	-	-	2
High Street	20	26	5	-	-	51
George Street	-	22	15	-	-	37
Bardard Park	8	-	-	-	-	8
Lindsay Street	-	14	4	-	-	18
	238	591	440	24	1	1294

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1963 - SHOWING AGE INCIDENCE AND DISTRIBUTION.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Number of Cases Notified at Ages - Years												TOTAL	Total number of cases notified in each Ward				TOTAL	Deaths	Cases Removed to Hospital
	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & over		Hetton	Hetton Downs	Easington Lane	Moorsley & Rainton			
Scarlet Fever					6	6	1						13	9	1	2	1	13		
Diphtheria																				
Puerperal Pyrexia																				
Pneumonia	1		1							1			3	3				3		
Erysipelas																				
Pulmonary) Female							1		2				4	1	1	1	1	4		
Tuberculosis) Male									1	3	2		6	1	2	1	2	6		
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis																				
Meningococcal Infection																				
Small Pox																				
Dysentery																				
Measles	2	25	10	19	36	42	7		2				144	47	54	29	14	144		
Whooping Cough	3		9	2	6	2							22	3	3	14	2	22		
Food Poisoning																				
Acute Encephalitis																				
Acute Poliomyelitis																				
Acute Polio-Encephalitis																				
TOTAL	7	25	20	21	48	50	9		7	4	2		192					192		

Houses completed during 1963 :-

<u>Site</u>	<u>A 1</u>	<u>A 2</u>	<u>A 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
The Folds	2	1	-	3
Low Downs Square	8	2	-	10
Quarry House Gardens	10	13	2	25
	20	16	2	38

1. Summary of work done by the Public Health Inspector's Department during the year 1963 :-

New Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	38	-	38
(b) By any other housing authority	-	-	-
(c) By Private Persons	-	33	33

Total No. of Inhabited Houses - 5395

2.

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES

A.

Formal Action

- (i) No. of houses demolished during year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action 52
- (ii) No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action. 38
- (iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed. 44
- (iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation -

B. Informal Action

- (i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above.

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR

3. No. of houses made fit during the year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts.

- (a) As a result of informal action ... 79
- (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ... -
- (c) By Local Authority in default of owners ... -

4. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : HOUSING ACTS 1949/63

No. of separate houses

	<u>Discretionary</u> <u>Grant</u>	<u>Standard</u> <u>Grant</u>
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	30	4
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority	-	-
(c) Total No. of applications approved since inception of scheme	269	27
(d) Total No. of grants paid since inception of scheme	254	24

GENERAL SUMMARY

	No. of Inspect- ions	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Statutory Notices Served	Defects remedied after Notice	Legal Pro- ceedings & Gen. Remark
Housing:					
Public Health and Housing Acts	196	87	-	79	
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary Conveniences:					
Insufficient	3	2	-	2	
Defective	14	2	-	2	
Drainage	49	9	-	9	
Water Supply	208	15	-	14	
Food Premises	246	4	-	4	
Shops Act	31	-	-	-	
Slaughterhouses:					
Public	-	-	-	-	
Private	292	4	-	4	
Tents, Vans, Etc.	56	21	-	21	
Offensive Trades	-	-	-	-	
Factories & Workplaces	48	3	-	3	
Keeping of Animals	8	1	-	1	
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	133	45	-	41	
Offensive accumulations	22	14	-	14	
Smoke Nuisances	19	3	-	3	
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	439	6	-	6	
TOTAL	1764	230	-	215	

Total number of water-closets in District ... 5494
Total number of ash-closets in District ... 34
Total number of ashpit privies in District... 17

Water Supply: All domestic and business premises in the area are supplied with water direct from the public mains, supply taps all being situated within the buildings and almost without exception discharging over a scullery sink. The supply was consistently satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout 1963.

The Sunderland and South Shields Water Company supply the greater part of the area, the Hetton and Hetton Downs Wards being supplied with water pumped from Colliery workings. This is found to be consistently pure, and an excellent drinking water, but with a permanent hardness making it very unsuitable for normal domestic requirements. The remainder of the Company's supply is drawn from their own trunk mains, this water being reasonably soft and eminently suitable for domestic purposes.

The Durham County Water Board supply East and Middle Rainton areas direct from their mains, this water is very soft, and very suitable for domestic purposes. This supply was not affected by any rationing scheme due to drought during the year.

The variations in the characteristics of the waters distributed make it necessary to keep a close watch on plumbing installations, and owing to the extreme hardness of the Hetton water, indirect hot water systems, utilising a calorifier type tank, have been installed for many years.

The supply is sampled weekly at various points in the areas by the Health Department, and samples were examined free of charge at the Public Health Laboratory, Sunderland, and the ready co-operation and advice offered at all times by Dr. Crone, the Principal of the Department proved an invaluable aid to the Health Department, who also enjoyed close co-operation with the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and the Durham County Water Board, and were able to obtain prompt attention whenever defects arose in the respective supplies.

During the year under review 204 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, but none for chemical examination, of these 12 were found to be contaminated, but all to a minor degree, the contamination being eliminated by the flushing of the affected mains.

Drainage and Sewerage: With the exception of a few isolated premises, which rely on cesspools of modern construction, the whole of the premises in the district are connected to the Council's sewers, and these, with one exception, drain to the Glebe Sewerage Works situated at Rainton Bridge. The works, which were constructed in 1936-7 function satisfactorily. The few remaining houses left in the village of Middle Rainton do not drain to the works, but the outfall here, which has been the subject of consideration from time to time, creates no nuisance, and the properties are being dealt with by Slum Clearance action and redevelopment will not take place in the area, this part of the system will be eliminated in the foreseeable future.

All drainage work, apart from that carried out on the Council's Housing sites, is subjected to testing and examination by the Health Department, and with the large amount of drainage and plumbing extensions carried out in works under concessionary and standard grants, the drainage system is being rapidly brought up to modern standards, and is generally in a highly satisfactory condition. During 1963 it was found necessary to serve 71 informal notices requiring the repair of defects in domestic drains, these all being remedied without recourse to statutory action.

Sanitary Accommodation: The numbers and types of sanitary conveniences serving premises in the district at the end of 1963 were as follows :-

Water Closet.....	5494
Ash-Closet	34
Ash-pit privies.....	17
Chemical Closets.....	3

A very large proportion of the dwellinghouses have water-closets inside the house, and these are steadily increasing as houses are improved by grant aid, and only in a very small number of cases are conveniences being used by more than one family. Slum clearance is steadily disposing of the few remaining dry closets as those

listed serve houses which are scheduled for clearance in the near future.

Refuse collection and disposal: This service is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Health Department. Four side loading, end tipping lorries, with four drivers and eight fillers are employed on the work, two additional fillers being employed during the three heaviest months of the winter, and it is found possible to maintain a once weekly clearance throughout the area. An additional lorry and driver are engaged on the collection of trade refuse and salvage from business premises, this collection being subject to a charge. The driver is also responsible for the sorting and baling of the material collected, and this ~~is~~ marketed.

All refuse is disposed of by tipping, this being controlled within the limites of available covering material, a man being employed whilst tipping is in progress to gather loose paper etc., and tins being collected as the work proceeds, with the result that ~~there is~~ difficulty in keeping the sites tidy and free from nuisance, and the occassional use of a tractor to scrape and level the finished surfaces provides effective consolidation. During the year a tip which had been in use for some time at Murton Road was completed and restored to cultivation, and a tip adjoining Eppleton Colliery Modern School, where land was being infilled to construct a playing field was also completed and handed over. This latter tip proved noteworthy in two respects, firstly, although it was situated immediately adjacent to the school, and a road, it provided tipping for many months without giving rise to complaint, and secondly it proved a boon during the first two months of the year, when the severe weather conditions then prevailing created chaos in the collection and disposal of refuse, as many parts of the area were inaccessible over lengthy periods, and this was in fact the only tip, out of three in use at the time, which was accessible throughout the period.

Following the completion of these two tips, a new site was started at Bulwells in the late spring, here again the intention

being to reclaim rough land for agriculture, and tipping proceeded very satisfactorily here throughout the year.

The above-mentioned sites were all provided free by the farmers, and landowners, the tipping site leased by the Council being at the Hazard Colliery, which has been in use for over 25 years, it being situated amidst disused Colliery spoil heaps, which will require removal and levelling before the area could be of any use for agricultural purposes, nevertheless the tipping of refuse has levelled off a considerable area.

A 24" x 18" ash-bin is in use throughout the district, this size proving more than adequate for the storage of a week's refuse from the majority of premises. Makeshift receptacles are not countenanced, as a bin replacement scheme has been in operations for many years, worn out bins are reported daily by the collectors, and the occupier is offered a replacement at reasonable cost. The number of bins supplied to privately owned premises during the year was 69 at an average re-sale price of 25/-. Serious consideration was given to the use of the paper sack method of refuse collection, and tests were carried out in the spring to gauge how this type of receptacle met the needs of the local population, and whether the sacks were sufficiently robust for use in a Colliery District. A supply of sacks was obtained and distributed to cover a typical cross section of the community and it was found that the sacks were susceptible to fire from burning embers, and to puncture from sharp objects, no doubt after one or two experiences of this the housewives would take steps to avoid it, from the same cause, viz. punctured sacks, the hygienic advantages of less dust and spillage during collection were to some extent lost, little benefit was found in tidiness on the tip, as the sacks become broken up during transport in any case with the type of tip on which we are dependant, i.e. for the re-claiming of agricultural land, anything which is likely to retard the break down of the refuse is undesirable, and to tip intact sacks would tend in this direction. Many of the difficulties would be overcome in practice, however, and the system has definite hygienic advantages, provides less arduous and more pleasant working

condition for the men, and should speed up collections. Heavy capital expenditure would be involved in equipping premises with sack holders (considerable care would have to be exercised in the selection of a satisfactory type and method of fixing) and there would of course be a considerable standing charge for the weekly replacement of sacks.

The system would best be initiated by pilot schemes on new housing sites, with a gradual substitution of existing ash-bins. The only effective saving would result from speeding up of collections and the reduction of labour force, and unless considerable expansion took place in the area, redundancy would arise which could best be met by the non-replacement of men leaving or retiring.

The nature of the refuse collected has appreciably changed in recent years. The modernisation of heating appliances has resulted in a much smaller ash-content, but owing to lack of facilities much less rubbish is burned by the house holders, resulting in an increase in the bulk of the refuse to be handled due to the preponderance of cartons, wrappings and tins.

Trade refuse is collected separately, subject to the payment of a nominal charge, and almost all the business premises have taken advantage of the scheme. The collections consist almost entirely of office waste, wrapping paper and cartons, and these are baled, and sold to the paper Mills. It is doubtful whether the handling involved, and the poor price obtained makes this worth while, but the income from collections helps, and this amounted to £119.12s.0d for 1963.

There is a complete lack of weighbridge facilities in the area, making the weighing of loads impossible, but each driver records daily the number of loads collected by his vehicle, and during 1963 the staff dealt with a total number of 5654 loads, with an estimated tonnage of 14,235, or approximately 2.4 tons per house per annum. The work involved the weekly clearance of 5886 premises, a large number of which had multiple bins installed, and the approximate cost:

per house per annum was £2.33.

THE SHOPS ACT: The Chief Public Health Inspector also acts as Inspector under the Shops Act, and these premises were all visited and inspected during the year, the majority of the shops, particularly food premises, were visited frequently. Throughout the area the shops are equipped with suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and space heating, and the larger premises have all provided rest rooms, and generally the position will be very satisfactory when these premises are reviewed in connection with the new Act. Five small lock up shops where sanitary accommodation is prohibited by restricted space, have exemption certificates in force, as facilities are available within a reasonable distance, but they are provided with hot water and washing facilities.

Closing hours and Sunday trading are kept under observation, but no difficulty has been found in enforcement, and no infringements were the subject of complaint or detected.

Tents.Vans. Sheds and Camping Sites: There are no recognised or licenced caravan or camping sites in the Area, although the Council decided in 1961 to make provision for a small site at Hutton Street Hetton Downs, which was to be equipped with the necessary amenities, and being close to schools and shopping centre would have provided very satisfactory accommodation for the long stay type of van-dweller, but as yet, no progress has been made with this.

A problem arose however in the village of Middle Rainton, where a small colony of short stay van dwellers had been established for many years. These van dwellers, who never exceeded two or three in number, gave no trouble, and always moved off when requested to do so, although they invariably drifted back after a period. The site used was land last occupied by houses demolished in 1937, and it was found impossible to trace the individual owners, making formal action difficult.

During 1963 an undesirable type of van-dweller moved on to the site, and provided a nucleus which tended to snowball and become a definite nuisance to the district.

Formal action was difficult because the site in use was land last occupied by houses condemned and demolished in 1937, and the quite large number of individual owners concerned had long since abandoned the land, and were either deceased or impossible to trace. Intensive informal action finally resulted in the clearance of the van dwellers here, and notice boards were erected warning future intending occupiers, and it has been possible to keep the site clear since.

SCHOOLS: A very high standard of hygiene was maintained in schools throughout the area, the incidence of infectious disease was negligible, and scabies etc., virtually non-existent. It was not necessary to close any school. The central school kitchen is situated at Easington Lane, where it was invariably found that a very high standard of hygiene was being practised.

The department is indebted to the teaching staff for their ready co-operation whenever enquiries or arrangements regarding the welfare of the pupils were necessary.

Public Houses, Hall, and Cinemas: These premises are subject to regular inspection, although there are now no cinemas in operation in the area, two of the three which were in existence having been converted to Bingo Halls which are kept under observation and found to maintain reasonable standards of hygiene. An annual report is submitted for the guidance of the Justices at the Brewster sessions, and it was not necessary to report adversely with regard to any premises during the year under review, in fact a high standard of hygiene and sanitary accommodation is maintained in licenced premises throughout the area, and all are equipped with modern washing facilities in the bars.

FOOD INSPECTION: The following table shows the type and number of food premises where food stuffs are prepared and sold, viz:-

Slaughterhouses.....	10
Colliery Canteens.....	2
Cafes or Snack Bars.....	3
Licensed Premises.....	1
Fish & Chips.....	8
Butchers.....	14
Greengrocery and Fruiterers.	10
Bakers and Confectioners..	17
Grocery.....	30
General.....	44
Ice-Cream Manufacturers...	2
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream....	63

The number of slaughterhouses licences in force during the year numbered 10, but one of the premises was not used for slaughtering during the period, and in the case of a further slaughterhouse, which had not been in use for some time, and was not in compliance with the Regulations, the application for renewal of the licence was refused. All the premises in use were in full compliance with the statutory requirements both with regard to equipment and structure, and all had stunning pens provided.

Since 1936-100% of all animals slaughtered have been inspected and no difficulty was experienced in implementing the Meat marking Regulations when they came into effect on 1st November, 1963, although, to attain this, overtime working on Saturdays and Sundays had been necessary for some years, and appears likely to continue. A considerable proportion of the meat slaughtered in the area is exported and the inspection of this was subject to government grant. The payments for meat marking will however, represent an appreciable rise in the income from meat inspection.

The incidence of disease found in animals is steadily decreasing, and generally, a very high class of animal is found in the slaughterhouses, but where it was necessary to condemn carcasses, or parts thereof, they were sprayed with a highly persistent green dye, and disposed of to manufacturers of pet foods, who guarantee that none of the material will be used for human consumption. The merchants, are, however, only interested in the collection of large quantities, and it is therefore frequently necessary to make recourse to burial on the refuse tips.

The number of slaughtermen licenced by the Council during 1963 was 38, a very good type of man being employed throughout the district, with a good number of promising apprentices in training, the majority of butchers appearing to have little trouble in finding suitable staff. A fluctuating amount of sheep slaughter under Mahomedan rites for the provisioning of ships is carried out at one establishment, and whilst one can only accept the slaughtermen sent for the ritual slaughter at their face value, they vary greatly in efficiency. They carry out the act of slaughter only, the dressing of carcasses being done by the regular employees of the slaughterhouses.

There is no nuisance arising from the storage and disposal of slaughterhouse wastes, these, without exception being cleared on the day they arise, as there are several firms coming into the area who are willing to collect offal wastes, and the majority of the butchers take advantage of this. A deep trench is also provided on the refuse tip for the exclusive use of the butchers, who contribute to the cost of providing and maintaining it, and this is filled, covered and extended as the need arises, and effectively prevents nuisance from promiscuous or careless dumping.

The following table gives particulars of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Pigs	Cow	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	2211	143	65	8868	1649
Number Inspected	2211	143	65	8868	1649
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	3	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	548	39	-	109	38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	24.88	27.27	-	1.26	2.30
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.72
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Cases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Total condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Total weight of meat condemned 1 ton. 1 cwt. 0 qrs. 0 st. 10 lbs.					

MILK DAIRIES: Liquid milk distribution in the district is carried out by two suppliers. The Houghton-le-Spring Dairy Farmer's Association supply pasteurised milks which are processed and bottled by the Milk Marketing Board at their Durham plant, and also a considerable quantity of raw tuberculin tested milk from local farms. The East Durham Co-operative Dairies distribute pasteurised milks processed at their Wingate Dairy, and have an excellent distributing and storage Depot, equipped with cold storage chambers, situated in the Hetton Downs Ward. A good amount of sterilised milk, emanating mainly from Dairies in the Sunderland area, is also consumed in the District, many stores and general shops stocking this, and 58 shops were registered for such sales at the end of the year review.

Two complaints were received with regard to dirty milk bottles, which were found on investigation to be due to accidental contamination to a minor degree. The relevant particulars were passed on to the authorities for the areas where the milk was bottled.

The County Council are responsible for the sampling of milks, and their Health Department reports monthly on the number of samples taken, which during 1963 amounted to 25 samples, 5 of these being from sterilised milks. The Council's Health Department still continue to take weekly samples on a limited scale from local deliveries, the raw tuberculin tested milk receiving particular attention. Samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Sunderland where they are bacteriologically examined free of charge, the raw milks also being checked for the presence of br.abortus and anti-biotics. They are not infrequently found positive to the ring test for br.abortus, but subsequent cultures have proved negative. The samples taken by the Health Department during 1963 numbered 126, and of these 12, almost without exception from the raw milks, failed

the tests.

ICE-CREAM: The number of premises registered for the retail sale of pre-packed ice-cream at the end of the year numbered 63, these being confectionery and general dealers shops which are provided with refrigeration cabinets, and sell pre-packed ice-cream delivered direct from the factory. Such ice-cream is almost invariably of good quality, and only failure of the refrigerator, or prolonged storage can affect its quality, and as check samples are continued throughout the winter months, old stock is quickly detected. The manufacturers, having in mind the reputation of their product, also carry out checks and are prompt in dealing with complaints, replacing stock immediately if there is any doubt as to its condition. Applications for the registration of two premises for the sale of ice-cream were refused on the grounds of the unsuitability of the premises.

Three premises in the area were in use for ice-cream manufacture, and were fully equipped with modern plant when the Heat Treatment Regulations came into force. Their product was of excellent quality, and produced under the most hygienic conditions, but during the year these premises were only in intermittent use, mainly to meet the seasonal demand, and the proprietors found it more economical to retail pre-packed proprietary brands.

Samples are taken by the Health Department weekly, particular attention being paid to the numerous itinerant hawkers who tour the area with motor vans, although difficulty is experienced with these traders owing to their irregular times often making it inconvenient for the transmission of samples to the Public Health Laboratory, where bacteriological examinations are carried out free of charge.

The number of samples taken during 1963 was 60 of these proving to be sub-standard in some degree, the actual results being as follows :-

Grade 1. 43, Grade 2. 9. Grade 3. 6, Grade 4. 2.

In the case of one hawker giving consistently unsatisfactory results, contact was made with the authority where the ice-cream was produced, and the point effort resulted in a considerable improvement.

HOUSING: All dwellings provided by the Council during the year were built by direct labour, and 38 houses were completed and occupied. Casual vacancies in the existing housing sites provided accommodation for the further 158 families. The development of a site at the Four Lane Ends, Hetton, being the sites of condemned houses and land adjacent, made good progress during the year, the houses being built for sale by a local builder, and this site is rapidly developing into a large and attractive housing unit. A total number of 33 private houses were completed in the area during 1963, all for owner occupiers.

Good progress was made with improvements in the amenities of the older ~~properties~~, a good number of owner occupiers taking advantage of the grant aid available to carry out improvements to their houses, 30 applications being received for discretionary grants, and 4 applications for standard grants, all of which were approved. The response from the owners of rented property is disappointing. Whilst the outlay necessary to bring many houses up to a standard which would qualify them for concessionary grant could be considerable, it is possible under the standard grant to instal necessary amenities for a comparatively small outlay, and there are many fundamentally sound dwellings, with a reasonable expectation of life, which

would qualify for grant. The Council have completed the modernisation of their older houses, and the National Coal Board made good progress with a large number of their houses which are unlikely to be affected by a slum clearance action in the foreseeable future, yet fall below a reasonable standard of amenities, and the majority now have hot water supply and fixed baths.

There were no Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders put forward during the year under review, but a good number of properties were dealt with by Closing and Demolition Orders. The Council's policy is to prevent the eyesore and danger of derelict sites by immediate demolition wherever possible, and a good amount of work was done in this connection by arrangement with the owners. The National Coal Board are particularly helpful in this respect, where ever their properties are affected it is found that the houses are demolished immediately following vacation, and the sites cleared.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS: These premises are regularly inspected, and the standard of hygiene is found to be generally good. Temporary conveniences provided for workers on engineering and building sites, and farms, were also regularly visited to ensure their satisfactory maintenance.

The industrial site at Lyons Colliery made further progress, and there is every indication that all the sites here will be taken up and a very desirable development will be attained. The initial difficulties regarding water supply and sewerage were largely overcome by the end of the year, and it was possible to obtain adequate sanitary facilities to the buildings.

The number of inspections carried out by the Health Department, and the results arising therefrom are set out in the following table, viz:-

1. Inspection for the purposes of provisions as the Health
(including Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspect- -ions	Written Notice	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	16	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	28	6	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- worker's premises)	3	1	-	-
TOTAL	62	45	12	4

2. Defects found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which Prosecut- ions were Instituted
	Found	Remed- ied	By H.M. Inspector	Referred To H.M.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of Floors (S.6)	2	2	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Suitable or defective	6	8	2	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10	12	2	2	-

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND VERMIN: Householders troubled with insect pests are provided with a free service, complaints mainly arising from cockroach in older houses, and these are treated with powder Based on D.D.T., (which has a residual effect for some months if left undisturbed), and pyrethrum, which has an instant effect on surface insects. Malathion is also frequently used, being very effective in underfloor spaces and hollow partitions, both powders being dispensed through a blower.

The incidence of infestations has steadily diminished in recent years, and bed bug infestations are comparatively rare. These are initially dealt with by gammaxane fumigation, which disposed of surface vermin, and provides a degree of protection to householders for stripping walls, in some cases architraves, picture rails and skirtings are removed and treated with blowtorch before replacement. Spraying is subsequently carried out to deal with insects which have subsequently incubated, and a final treatment to ensure complete clearance. In the course of these operations, particular attention is paid to adjoining houses, as the treatment may well cause migration of the vermin, and subsequent co-operation of the householders is essential, they are advised to keep walls unpapered for at least six months, and to report immediately any stray insects noticed, as a small nucleus of survivors will rapidly establish a fresh infestation.

RODENT CONTROL: Surface infestations, involving dwelling-houses, business premises, agricultural land, and the Council's refuse tips, are dealt with by the Health Department, dwelling-houses being treated free of charge. The Council's Highways Department carried out the periodical treatment of the sewers. The preliminary survey work, and a large part of the treatment, is undertaken by the Public Health Inspectors, assisted by a part-time operative who works under their supervision.

Reporting an infestation is a statutory obligation on

the occupier of premises or land, and early reports are of great assistance in carrying out the work, as although major infestations are rare, the movements of the rodent population are so fluid that heavy infestations may arise almost overnight. Complaints from householders are readily forthcoming, often they are found to be without foundation, and time wasting, but frequent surveys are carried out to detect infestations, particularly on agricultural land, where they tend to pass unreported, although with the availability of Warfarin, and satisfactory results it obtains with little effort, farmers and smallholders are tending more and more to carry out their own treatments.

Warfarin was the poison in general use for treatments during the year, as it has been found to be safe, effective, and convenient in use, nevertheless precautions are taken where domestic animals, particularly pigs, might have access to the bait. No cases of resistance to Warfarin poisoning were noted during the year, but zinc phosphide, red squills and arsenic were used when special circumstances made this necessary, and a few gassing operations with "Cymag" were carried out in burrows in refuse tips, with good results, when weather conditions made the operations practicable and safe of atmospheric conditions.

CLEAN AIR: Monthly observations are made by the Health Department by means of the British standard deposit gauge, and the lead peroxide gauge, the station being sited to obtain maximum benefit from the prevailing winds passing over the are. A considerable amount of useful data is obtained from these observations, from which the following figures, being of salien interest, are extracted, viz:-

Average total solids in tons per sq.mile.....	11.90
Heaviest deposit during the year...May.....	17.12
Lightest deposit during the year...July.....	7.98
Average rainfall for the year.....	2.32ins.
Heaviest rainfall (November).....	5.11ins.
Lightest rainfall (October).....	0.77ins.

The steady improvement in atmospheric conditions which has been noted during recent years, continued during 1963.

This has been largely due to the co-operation of the National Coal Board in the improvement of colliery spoil heaps and boiler houses. The method of tipping waste in shallow layers, covering with soil, and eventually grassing over, which is now used, has prevented the fires which were once commonplace, and with them the danger to trespassers, fumes, and damage to paintwork and structures, and whilst the twin heap at Nicholson's Pit, East Rainton, still conform to the orthodox conical shape, no nuisance arises here. The redundant heaps are fast disappearing, as the ballast is in great demand for road making, this operations giving rise to complaints in dry windy weather, a serious dust nuisance arising from the lorries transporting the material. The haulage contractors, when approached, have proved very co-operative, but there is no easy solution, it not being possible to safely cover the lorries with sheets, as it is found that even after lying undisturbed for many years areas, on these heaps are still burning, but spraying the loads with water, if carried out thoroughly, has proved effective.

Consideration has been given on a number of occasions to the making of Smoke Control Orders, as with this in mind steady progress has been made with the equipping of dwelling-houses with approved appliances, both pre-war Council and Colliery houses being so equipped under modernisation schemes, and the appropriate by-law having been adopted at an early stage, all new houses, and dwellings subject to improvement grant have been similarly dealt with, with the result that it was hoped to zone quite large groups with a minimum of expense, the only adaptation necessary for the change over to smokeless fuel being the substitution of the grate. It became apparent, however, that adequate supplies of premium fuels would not be available to meet the demand, and whilst there is every possibility that closed stoves, capable of burning hard coke, will be fitted in some future types of Council houses in conjunction with modified central heating,

the general adoption of these appliances for houses in smokeless zones, whilst desirable, would be costly.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES: There are no common lodging houses in the area.

MARINE STORE DEALERS: One marine store dealer was operating in the district during 1963, on quite a large scale, but in scrap metal only, and no nuisance arose from the premises, although complaints arose from time to time from adjacent householders when stock piling tended to detract from the amenities. Part-time dealers engaged on dismantling motors, and storing scrap in the back yard of their dwellinghouses occasionally made informal action necessary, but this practice would appear to be diminishing. Itinerant rag and bone dealers, all coming from outside the district, were kept under observation to prevent offences with regard to the exchange with juveniles of forbidden articles for rags etc.

CARE OF THE AGED: The welfare of aged persons in the area is supervised by the Hetton Urban District Old People's Welfare Committee, which was inaugurated by the Council in March 1950, and has maintained steady progress since. The Committee acts as a co-ordinating Committee for five Ward Committees, who are directly responsible to it for overseeing the welfare of aged residents in their respective areas, and the Chief Public Health Inspector has been Hon. Secretary throughout the Committee's existence.

The Committee has always aimed at being entirely self-supporting, and by its efforts raises a considerable amount of money each year, which is expended in the best possible way to provide entertainment and amenities for the old people.

A very effective visiting scheme is in operation throughout the area, which is aimed at reaching the large number of old people who by reason of infirmity or disinclination, do not participate in the activities of the Darby and Joan Clubs, and in particular the small hard core who resolutely resist any interference in their way of life or attempts to help them, but who nevertheless require more frequent tactful supervision than their more amenable fellow pensioners. The sick are regularly visited at home, or in hospital, the visitor always taking some small gift to mark the occasion, it only being possible to maintain this work owing to the existence of a very willing and enthusiastic group of voluntary workers.

The Clubs meet regularly, and frequent entertainments, cutting and parties are arranged, and the Council have provided and maintained a shelter which is used by the old men at Broomhill, where one of the largest groups of pensioners reside.

A chiropody scheme has been in operation for some years, and appears to adequately meet the demands of the area. The cost to the patients is negligible, and, if the circumstances justify this, the Committee undertake to bear the cost of the treatment.

